



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Federal Disaster Loans for
Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U. S. Small Business Administration
P. O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853

Disaster Area 4 Office
(800) 488-5323 (916) 566-7240

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December 15, 2003

Press Release

SBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE VICTIMS SURPASSES \$100 MILLION

Sacramento, CA – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) said today that the SBA has provided \$100,131,800 in low interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and businesses who suffered property damage from the Southern California wildfires. Of that amount, \$90,627,600 assisted 743 homeowners and renters, while \$9,504,200 was earmarked for 141 California businesses.

“I am proud to announce that the SBA has been able to provide more than \$100 million in disaster loans to business and homeowners whose lives were so drastically affected by the wildfires in southern California this fall,” Barreto said. “From past fire disasters, we at the SBA know that individuals and businesses won’t recover all of their losses from their insurance settlement. That is why it was so important that the SBA was able to move in swiftly and give real assistance to those most in need. But the job is far from over.”

“The damage from these wildfires was widespread, and we know that there are still many Californians who are working to put their lives back together,” he said. “It is important that they contact us soon if they believe that they are eligible for assistance, so that we can take swift action to lend a helping hand.”

From a taxpayer’s standpoint, providing low interest loans with affordable terms is the most cost-effective method to help disaster victims. SBA loans reduce federal disaster costs when compared to other forms of assistance, and also avoid more costly public financial outlays.

According to Barreto, disaster loans represent a critical source of economic stimulation in disaster-ravaged communities by helping to spur employment, save jobs, and stabilize tax bases. “To date, funding from SBA’s disaster loans helped protect or save the jobs of approximately 300 members of the Southern California workforce. “I am proud to say that SBA’s average processing time on these loans is 10 days.”

Barreto encouraged all individuals and business owners who suffered damage as a result of the fires to register for Federal and state disaster assistance programs by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s toll-free registration number at (800) 621-3362.

For more information on SBA’s disaster assistance programs, individuals and business owners may call toll-free (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 566-7388.

The deadline to return applications for property damage has been extended to **January 9, 2004**. Applications for economic injury must be returned by **July 27, 2004**.

End

See attached list of Assistance Centers

SBA DISASTER CENTER	<u>LOS ANGELES COUNTY</u> Hughes Community Center 1700 Danbury Road (near intersection of Towne Ave. & Scripps Dr.) Claremont, CA 91711	HOURS: Closed for holidays: Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Monday, Jan. 5 Monday – Wednesday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Open until further notice
SBA DISASTER CENTER	<u>SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY</u> Lake Arrowhead Branch Library 27235 Highway 189 (across from Jensen's Grocery Store) Blue Jay, CA 92317	HOURS: Closed for holidays: Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Friday, Jan. 2 Monday & Tuesday 12:00 pm – 7:30 pm Wednesday – Friday 10:00 am – 5:30 pm Saturday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Open Saturday, Dec. 13 thru Friday, Jan. 9
DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER	<u>SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY</u> 105 N. Leland Norton Way (Airport Terminal Building) San Bernardino, CA 92408	HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Open until further notice
DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER	<u>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</u> Old Grossmont Bank Building 1347 Tavern Road, Suite 30 (in Alpine Creek Shopping Center) Alpine, CA 91901	HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Open until further notice
DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER	<u>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</u> St. Elizabeth Catholic Church 2814 B Street (corner of Fourth Avenue & B Street) Julian, CA 92036	HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Open until further notice
DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER	<u>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</u> 325 6th Street (old post office building) Ramona, CA 92065	HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Open until further notice
DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER	<u>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</u> Scripps Ranch Recreation Center, Gym 11454 Blue Cypress Drive (off Spring Canyon Rd. & across from St. Gregory Church) San Diego, CA 92131	HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Open until further notice
DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER	<u>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</u> 28565 Cole Grade Road (Valley Center Road Maintenance section) Valley Center, CA 92082	HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Open until further notice
SBA DISASTER CENTER	<u>VENTURA COUNTY</u> Moorpark Community Center, Citrus Room 799 Moorpark Avenue (north of High Street, across from the fire dept.) Moorpark, CA 93021	HOURS: Closed for holidays: Thursday, Dec. 25 – Friday, Jan. 2 Thursday – Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Open until further notice